

# ✠ ST. JOHN OF GOD SANCTUARY COMMUNITY ✠

## 1986-2019: 33 Years of Immigrant Advocacy and El Salvador Support!

In 1985 the members of the St. John of God community embarked on an eight-month course of prayer and discernment regarding the plight of the Central American refugees coming to the Bay Area. Members studied Archbishop John R. Quinn's 1983 Pastoral Letter on Central America, participated in house meetings in which refugees shared their stories, and informed themselves about moral and legal issues regarding political asylum. In January 1986, over 90% of the parishioners voted in favor of Sanctuary. Since Palm Sunday 1986, our community has reaffirmed the covenant, which articulates the vision of faith taught by our brothers and sisters of El Salvador and Guatemala.

*Christ's call is to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need. In response to this call, the members of the St. John of God Community enter into this covenant to provide sanctuary -- support, protection, and advocacy -- to Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees who request haven out of well-founded fear of persecution and possibly death if they are returned to their homeland. We do this out of concern for the welfare of these refugees, regardless of their official immigration status. . .*

*St. John of God Covenant of Public Sanctuary, Palm Sunday, 1986*

As in the early years, Sanctuary work focuses on advocacy, emergency aid and accompaniment for immigrants in San Francisco and the Bay Area and support of development projects in El Salvador.

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### ☀ Report on Projects ☀

Guided by the Spirit, we have continued the Sanctuary commitment to solidarity through:

**Human Rights Advocacy and Accompaniment:** Funds were given to the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity and Faith in Action to sustain their work of human rights advocacy for all people, regardless of immigration status. With the increase in deportations and more restrictive immigration policies, members of the St. John of God community have accompanied our immigrant sisters and brothers in deportation, asylum, detention and bond hearings. Seven members of the parish traveled to El Paso and Tucson to provide hospitality to recently-arrived Latin American immigrants. We have also provided bus passes to needy immigrants and established pen pal relationships through "Friends Afuera" with some of those in detention centers. Through our accompaniment and prayerful support, our sisters and brothers know they are not alone.

**Development:** Funds were given to anti-gang efforts at Santa Rosa of Lima Church in San Salvador to help parish teens continue their high school education in a collaborative project with the Ministry of Education. The teens study in a supportive environment safe from gang-related threats and intimidation. Also, funds were given to Voices on the Border and used to fund a domestic violence prevention program in Morazán, El Salvador.

**Direct Support:** In the past year funds were given to the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), for legal and social services for local immigrants. This nonprofit is a leader in providing legal and social services to low-income Latino immigrants.

### ☀ Please Support SJOG Sanctuary Work in 2019-2020 ☀

Please make checks out to **St. John of God (in memo line put "C.A.R.Fund/Sanctuary")**

**We invite parish community members to join us!**

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